

Gerard Torrats-Espinosa

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Columbia University, Department of Sociology
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Research Interests

Data Science; Crime; Inequality and Stratification; Urban Policy

Academic Affiliations

Columbia University
Department of Sociology, Assistant Professor (tenure track), 2020-present
Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Science, Board Member, 2020-present
Population Research Center, Affiliate, 2019-present
Data Science Institute, Member, 2019-present
Department of Sociology, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Data Science, 2019-2020

Other Affiliations

Behavioral Insights Team North America
Research Fellow, 2017-2019
New York University
Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, Doctoral Fellow, 2014-2019

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, New York University, 2019
Dissertation: “Inequality and Opportunity in the Crime Decline Era”
Committee: Ingrid Gould Ellen, Jennifer Hill, Mike Hout, Patrick Sharkey (Chair), and Florencia Torche
Field Exams: Social Stratification; Inequality; Causal Inference
Master in Public Policy, Harvard University, 2014
B.S. Building Engineering, Polytechnic University of Catalonia, 2004

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2020 **Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard.** 2020. “Crime and Inequality in Academic Achievement across School Districts in the United States.” *Demography* 57: 123–145.
- Ellen, Ingrid G. and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2020. “Do Vouchers Protect Low-Income Households from Rising Rents?” *Eastern Economic Journal* 46: 260–281.
- 2019 Ellen, Ingrid G. and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2019. “Gentrification and Fair Housing: Does Gentrification Further Integration?” *Housing Policy Debate* 29(5): 835-851.
- Ellen, Ingrid G., Michael Suher, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2019. “Neighbors and Networks: The Role of Social Interactions on the Residential Choices of Housing Choice Voucher Holders.” *Journal of Housing Economics* 43: 56-71.
- 2018 Balcells, Laia and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa.** 2018. “Using a Natural Experiment to Estimate the Electoral Consequences of Terrorist Attacks.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115(42): 10624-10629.
Outstanding Paper Award from the Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Section of ISA
- Heissel, Jennifer A., Patrick T. Sharkey, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, Kathryn Grant, and Emma K. Adam. 2018. “Violence and Vigilance: The Acute Effects of Community Violent Crime on Sleep and Cortisol.” *Child Development* 89(4): 323-331.
- 2017 Sharkey, Patrick, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, and Delaram Takyar. 2017. “Community and the Crime Decline: The Causal Effect of Local Nonprofits on Violent Crime.” *American Sociological Review* 82(6): 1214-1240.

Sharkey, Patrick and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2017. "The Effect of Violent Crime on Economic Mobility." *Journal of Urban Economics* 102: 22-33.

Book Chapters

Ellen, Ingrid G., Brian J. McCabe, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2020. "How Can Historic Preservation Be More Inclusive?" in *Preservation and Social Inclusion*. Columbia University Press.

Weiss, Christopher, Emma Garcia, and **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**. 2015. "A Comparative Analysis of the Relationship between Learning Environments and Educational Performance in Japan and the United States" Pp. 211-240 in *Japan Viewed from Interdisciplinary Perspectives* edited by Yoneyuki Sugita. Lexington Books.

Working Papers

Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard. "The Growth in Between-City Income Segregation"

Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard. "Aggregation Bias in the Two-Stage Least Squares Fixed Effects Model"

Torrats-Espinosa, Gerard and Patrick Sharkey. "The Fall of Violence and the Reconfiguration of Urban Neighborhoods"

Camilla Fabbri, Elizabeth Allen, Baptiste Laurent, Mary Qiu, Martin Zwakulu, Dennis Nombo, Michael Kaemingk, Alexandra De Filippo, **Gerard Torrats-Espinosa**, Elizabeth Shayo, Vivien Barongo, Giulia Greco, Wietse Tol, Katherine Rodrigues, Karen M Devries. "Preventing Violence Against Children in Schools in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: a cluster-randomised controlled trial of the EmpaTeach intervention to reduce physical violence from teachers to students"

Grants

Russell Sage Foundation & William T. Grant Foundation (PI, \$7,000), "Crime and Inequality in Academic Achievement across School Districts in the United States," 2016.

Fellowships & Awards

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University, 2019-2020 (Declined).

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, New York University, 2018.

Urban Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2018-2019.

Outstanding Paper Award from the Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Section of ISA, 2017.

Predocotrinal Interdisciplinary Research Training Fellowship (PIRT), New York University, 2014-2017.

Henry M. MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2014-2019.

"La Caixa" Graduate Fellowship, Spain, 2012-2014.

Conference Presentations

Includes scheduled conferences

2020 American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, 2020 (Cancelled).

2019 SREE Spring Conference, Washington, DC, 2019.

2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2018.

American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2018.

Population Association of America, Denver, CO, 2018.

2017 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017.

Population Association of America, Chicago, IL, 2017.

International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 2017.

2016 Urban Economics Association, Minneapolis, MN, 2016.

American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA, 2016.

APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2016.

American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, 2016.

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Washington, DC, 2016.

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia: Conference in Gentrification, Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Education and Inequality in 21st Century America, Stanford University, CA, 2016.

Population Association of America, Washington, DC, 2016.

2015 Russell Sage Foundation: Intergenerational Mobility in the United States, New York, NY, 2015.

Invited Talks

Includes scheduled talks

2020 Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, Columbia University, 2020 (Cancelled)

Criminology Program, Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), 2020 (Cancelled)

2019 DemoSoc Research Group Workshop, Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), 2019

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences Research Seminar, Columbia University, 2019

2018 Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University, 2018

2017 Furman Center Speaker Series, New York University, 2017

Teaching

Columbia University

Sociological Methods (Quantitative Methods Module), Fall 2019.

New York University

Introduction to Quantitative Methodology (Sociology Graduate), Fall 2017 (TA and Lab Instructor).

Math, Probability and Statistics Refresher (Sociology Graduate), Summer 2017 (TA and Lab Instructor).

Statistical Inference & Regression Analysis (Stern Undergraduate), Spring 2016 (TA).

Harvard Kennedy School

Intro Microeconomics (MPP Program Graduate), Fall 2012 (TA).

Media Writing

“Do terrorist attacks make people more politically engaged?” *Washington Post*. August 28, 2017 (with Laia Balcells).

“Els efectes politics del terrorisme” (“The Political Consequences of Terrorism”). *Ara*. August 22, 2017 (with Laia Balcells).

“La violencia policial y la division racial en los Estados Unidos” (“Police Brutality and the Racial Divide in the United States”). *La Vanguardia*. July 12, 2016.

Programing & Language Skills

Software: Python, R, Stata, L^AT_EX.

Languages: Spanish and Catalan (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate).

Service

Conference Service

Organizer, “Inequalities and Social Justice in the 21st Century City,” ASA Pre-Conference, New York, NY, 2019

Session organizer, “Fair Housing Research 50 Years after the Fair Housing Act,” APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2018

Session organizer, "Understanding the Locational Decisions and Outcomes of Assisted Housing Recipients," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017

Session organizer, "Reforming the Housing Choice Voucher Program," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017

Discussant, "Gentrification and Urban Policies," Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 2016

Session organizer, "Gentrification in the 21st Century," APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, 2016

Journal Review Service

Reviewer for: American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review (2), American Political Science Review, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Health, Sociology of Education (2), AERA Open, Sociological Forum, Sociological Methods and Research.

Grant Review Service

Reviewer for: William T. Grant Foundation.

Student Advising

Jane Mills (MA QMSS, Columbia University, Thesis Advisor, 2020-2021)

Anika Lanser (MA Sociology, Columbia University, Thesis Advisor, 2020-2021)

Membership

American Sociological Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Population Association of America.

Past Employment

Barcelona Fire Department, Spain, 2007 - 2012

Fire-Fighter (full-time, civil servant)